campaign, though at Seaham Harbour the Prime Minister found that oa this occasion it was at his meetings, not at his opponents', that the Union Jack was displayed and the National Anthem sung; for him that private cars were available, a long procession, two hundred or more. Whether or not he observed and considered the significance of such a change, he made no comment upon it, but threw himself energetically into the campaign,[20] addressing many meetings, still from time to time producing bis inflated German marks; on one occasion, as a variation, producing a toy shovel, and explaining that whereas previously he had come to them with a pickaxe to pull down, now he came to them with a shovel to construct.

Labour candidates, even in constituencies hitherto regarded as safe, found the going hard. The virtue they took to themselves, for having opposed cuts in unemployment pay, was offset by the Labour Government's disappointing record and the confused circumstances of its resignation. They might insist that they were the victims of a bankers' ramp, and the only true champions of the working classes; but the leaders under whom they had previously campaigned had deserted them, and the promises they had previously made had been, at best, inadequately kept. To add to their discomfiture, they were freely and plausibly presented as faint-hearts who had abandoned their posts and forgotten their principles in the hour of danger. Though courage and integrity are little in evidence among politicians, any suggestion that they are not well endowed with these qualities, damages their reputation; as

bookmakers are damaged by accusations that they lack sportsmanship, and prostitutes by accusations that they lack womanly tenderness.

The various political leaders were admitted to the microphone,

[20] He was subjected to persistent heckling, which on one occasion led him to remark that it was preposterous to accuse him of having betrayed his party for the sake of office when he had been offered, and had refused, a position of the highest distinction. Newspapers were asked not to comment on, or give any prominence to, this statement, which was generally taken to refer to the Viceroyalty.